

**William Fairfax to George Washington, July 5, 1754,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM WILLIAM FAIRFAX, ESQ. ¹

ALEXANDRIA 5th. July 1754

DEAR SIR

I came hither at our Governor's Request to view Captn. Clarke's Compa. & Captn. Rutherford's under the Care & Comand of Captn. Ogilvie,² who I am told have been delayd & retarded many Days, By the Muster It appeard they are not compleat. Colo. Innes is at Winchester, waiting for these and two Compa. of his own Men now here the rest to march from No. Carolina by Land. It will yet require a long Time before They can join You and make You regret the Hours—till then You can do little but Guard, Look out, and now & then bring in a stragling Party of other Embassadors. Tho' I sometimes flatter my Self the brave Dinwiddie³ & Monocatoche (whom I desire to take the Name of Washington) will exert their Power & Skill to defeat all the Wiles of the Suttle French, And as by our Forces not joining Sooner, the French have gained the more Time to augment and strengthen their Garrison, the most effectual & least hazardous Method to regain our Fort and Lands Seems to be, a Prevention of all supply of Provisions, which a good Encampment near them and active Scouts of our brave Indian Warriors might accomplish, And I hope our Treaty at Albany has engaged the Six Nations & Allies who reside between the Ohio & Canada to intercept all Supplys intended; whereby their

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present Provisions must Soon be expended. Majr. Carlyle dayly expects a £100 from Mr. Allen of Philadelphia, and is to be with the Governer in less than a Fortnight to receive abt. £1500, the Governer having applied to the Council who have consented that the Receivr. Genl. Should lend £2000 out of the 23. per Hhd Fund to the public Treasurer to answer the Drafts on Him. In short every probable Step has been taken to purchase and send You the necessary Provisions & to assist the March of the Forces that are following. You cañot well guess at the Fatigue Mr. Carlyle undergoes to acquit Himself of the various Demands, the Different Corps make. It will give me the greatest Pleasure to know from You that Colo. Innes, Captns. Clarke, Mackay & Ogilvie begin and likely to hold a good Union of Friendship, Councils and Joint Operations to fulfil his Majesty's Comands and Expectations from them—I have no doubt of your friendly Agreement with Them on yr. own Merit, but may be enlarg'd for yr. late Brother's Sake, formerly known to Colo. Innes & Capt. Clarke on the Carthagenia Expedition.

G Fx has been lately visited wth. the wonted Agues & Fevers, but hopes soon to amend as Mrs. Fx, Miss Bety Cary & Miss Hannah return'd to Us last Sunday, And I left them on Monday to muster the Soldiers here; have not heard from Them who know not of my present Writing. I suppose You will at least have Weekly Matter to insert in our Gazette which your Friends & Mr. Hunter will be glad to Publish, Lt. Colo. Grainger & Capt Woodrow I believe You will find worthy of Yr. Acquaintance. Mr. Henry Vanmetre now here has engag'd to Send You Beeves and wt. else his Influence can get for You that's wanting—In short yr. Friends are very anxious to have You constantly & wel supplied. As Mr. Carlyle writes, I need not add more particulars, referring to Him, Majr. Clarke & c. Please to make my Sincere Compliments & best wishes known to your worthy Officers, my Brethren & faithful Warriors Dinwiddie, Washington & Fairfax likewise to all others the cordial Allies of Great Britain—I remain dear Sir

Yr. truly affecte. Friend & c. W. FAIRFAX

1 William Fairfax was the son of Henry Fairfax, of Yorkshire, England, and grandson of Thomas, the fourth Lord Fairfax. His father died when he was young, and he was educated under the care of his uncle, Lord Lonsdale.

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At the age of twenty-one he entered the army, and served in Spain. He went also to the East Indies, and after his return engaged in the expedition against Providence Island, at that time in possession of the pirates. He was appointed governor of the Island, after its reduction, and married, in the year 1724, the daughter of Thomas Walker, a major in the army, who had accompanied the expedition, and received the appointment of chief justice of the Bahama Islands. The climate not agreeing with the health of Mr. Fairfax, he removed to New England, where he resided, holding an office of considerable trust and emolument, till he was desired by his kinsman, Lord Fairfax, to remove to Virginia, and become the agent for managing his large tract of lands in that colony. His first residence was in Westmoreland County, where he remained several years; but he afterwards established himself at Belvoir, on the Potomac River, a little below Mount Vernon. He died at that place on the 3d of September, 1757. He was a gentleman of great worth and respectability, held the offices of lieutenant of the County of Fairfax, and collector of the customs of South Potomac, and was one of the King's Council in Virginia, which last station he retained many years, and was for a considerable time president of the Council. From him have descended the various branches of the Fairfax family in Virginia. He was twice married: first, to Sarah Walker, by whom he had four children, George William, Thomas, Anne, and Sarah; secondly, to Deborah Clarke, of Salem, Massachusetts, by whom he had three children, Bryan, William, and Hannah. George William was educated in England. On his return to Virginia he married the daughter of Colonel Cary, of Hamptoon, became one of his majesty's council, and resided at Belvoir till the year 1773, when, some estates in Yorkshire having devolved to him, he went to England. The political troubles which followed induced him to remain. Part of his property in Virginia was sequestered, by which his income was reduced, and he removed to Bath, in England, where he lived in a private manner, and during the war contributed generously to the relief of the American prisoners. He died at Bath, on the 3d of April, 1787, in the sixty-third year of his age. Thomas, the second son, was an officer in the navy, and was killed in the East Indies, on board the ship of war Harwich, in an action with the French squadron, June 26, 1746. Anne, the eldest daughter of William Fairfax, was married to Lawrence Washington; and, after the death of her husband, she was married a second time to George Lee, of Virginia. Sarah, the second daughter, was married to John Carlyle, a merchant of Alexandria. Bryan, the third son, who afterwards became the eighth Lord Fairfax, married a daughter of Wilson Cary, and lived at a place called Towlston, in Fairfax County. He had two sons, Thomas and Ferdinando, and two daughters. As George William Fairfax, who died in England, had no children, he bequeathed his estates in Virginia to Ferdinando, this second son of his youngest and only surviving brother. William, the fourth son of William Fairfax, was educated in England. He entered the army, and was killed at the famous siege of Quebec. He was a young man of much promise. It is related that when General Wolfe had landed, he saw young Fairfax sitting near the bank of the river, and, touching him on the shoulder, said, "Young man, when we come to action, remember your name." Hannah, the youngest child, was married to Warner Washington, cousin-german to General Washington.—SPARKS.

2 Lieutenant William Ogilvie, in command of Captain Rutherford's Independent company from New York.

3 Tanacharisson, the Half King.